

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1200
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2003
DOWRY ACT
SURESH CHANDEL

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether even after implementation of Prevention of Dowry Act, 1961, the number of dowry deaths has not decreased;
- (b) if so, whether the Government are aware that the provisions of Prevention of Dowry Act, 1961, provide no safeguards to the aggrieved party;
- (c) if so, whether there is any proposal to amend the Act and the process associated with dowry; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI JASKAUR MEENA)

- (a) As per the data compiled by the National Crime Records Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs, Dowry Deaths in the country have shown an overall decline in the last five years. The number of such incidents was 6975 in 1998, 6699 in 1999, 6995 in 2000, 6553 in 2001 and 6067 in 2002.
- (b) As per the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961, any person who gives, takes or abets the giving or taking of dowry is punishable by imprisonment for a period not less than five years and by fine of not less than Rs.15,000/- or the amount of the value of dowry, whichever is more.
- (c)&(d) There is no immediate proposal to amend the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961. The taking/giving of dowry is still construed to be an offence.